

Message Text

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SUBJ: BILATERAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND TOUR OF BOSTON
YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FOR STATE CU/JOHN RICHARDSON AND ARA/WILLIAM ROGERS

1. I HAD LUNCH YESTERDAY FOR STEPHEN VERNON REPRESENTING THE BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO PRESENT PLANS AND NEEDS OF THE ORCHESTRA FOR ITS PROJECTED TRIP TO MEXICO IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. ATTENDING WERE JULIO HIRSHFIELD WHO, AS SECRETARY OF TOURISM, HAS JUST BEEN RAISED TO CABINET LEVEL; AMB. JESUS CABRERA MUNOZ LEDO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND ALFONSO ROSENWEIG-DIAZ, WHO IS THE LEGAL ADVISOR OF THE LEGAT ADVISOR OF THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS PROJECT AMONG INFLUENTIAL MEXICANS WHO SEEM PREPARED TO PROVIDE VARIOUS TYPES OF SUPPORT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ORCHESTRA'S APPEARANCE IN COLUMBIA LAST YEAR WAS SUCCESSFUL AND THAT THE YOUTH FACTOR WAS PARTICULARLY APPEALING.

2. VERNON INDICATED THAT THE ORCHESTRA, MADE UP OF 120 YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12 AND 18, WILL PAY THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND FOOD. AMB. MUNOZ LEDO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT THAT MEXICO AND THE US HAVE A BILATERAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT

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UNDER WHICH CULTURAL PROGRAMS OF THIS SORT COULD BE

PLACED. HE STATED THAT IF WE WERE WILLING TO MAKE THE BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AN OFFICIAL PART OF OUR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING, THE GOM WOULD COVER ALL LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND COSTS INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, FOOD, PERFORMANCES AND FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES.

3. HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT WHAT HE HAD ALREADY SAID PRIVATELY: THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF OUR CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE BILATERAL COMMISSION IN 1973, MEXICO IS FULLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORT THE US BICENTENNIAL. HOWEVER, HE WONDERED WHY THE 1974 MEETING OF THE CULTURAL COMMISSION, WHICH WAS TO BE HELD AT THE INVITATION OF THE US, WAS NEVER CALLED. GIVEN THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN AND ASSISTANCE TO BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES, HE SUGGESTED THE NEED FOR A MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH WE COULD CONSULT ON AND COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS THE BICENTENNIAL.

4. HE STRESSED THE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON PROJECTS THAT WILL HAVE A LASTING IMPACT BEYOND 1976. SINCE WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE IN IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVELY THE TERMS OF THE BILATERAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES, IT IS MY SUGGESTION THAT NOW THAT A FULL YEAR HAS PASSED WE INITIATE PLANS SOONEST FOR A NEW MEETING OF THE BILATERAL COMMISSION.

5. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT CABRERA MUNOZ LEDO WAS USING THE BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND REFERENCE TO THE BICENTENNIAL AS A MEANS TO FORCE OUR HAND TOWARDS A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION. I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE IN DEALING WITH THE MEXICANS IN SUCH A MEETING, BUT AT THE SAME TIME DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN NEGLECT OUR PROMISE TO CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM. THE PROGRAM AT HAND, HOWEVER, IS WHETHER OR NOT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CAN OFFICIALLY ENDORSE THE BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SO THAT WE CAN SO INFORM THE MEXICAN FOREIGN OFFICE.

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6. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AS I HAVE SAID, THE MEXICANS WOULD BECOME THE HOSTS AND BEAR ALL COSTS OF THE ORCHESTRA WHILE IT IS IN THE COUNTRY. THE OBVIOUS HAZARD IN DOING THAT IS THAT AT SOME FUTURE DATE THE US WOULD HAVE TO RECIPROCATATE. I KNOW IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO COVER THE COSTS OF A SIMILAR GROUP PERFORMING IN THE UNITED STATES. VERNON, HOWEVER, WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THROUGH PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS IN BOSTON

THE COMMUNITY COULD COVER COSTS TO HOST A SIMILAR PERFORMING GROUP THERE. THIS OF COURSE WAS ALREADY DONE AT ATLANTA WHERE LAST APRIL DURING THE OASGA, THE COMMUNITY COVERED LOCAL COSTS OF MEXICAN FOLKLORE DANCE GROUP FROM UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA.

7. AT THIS JUNCTURE, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO RUN THE RISK THAT RECIPROCITY COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE US AND IF POSSIBLE RECEIVE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR TELLING THE MEXICAN FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY HAS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S ENDORSEMENT. A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY WOULD SUFFICE. (IF WE FELT REALLY CHINTZY WE COULD STATE THAT THIS VISIT WAS RECIPROCATING THAT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA TO ATALANTA). I FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD FIND SOME WAY TO MOVE FORWARD ON THIS.

8. CONCURRENTLY, I BELIEVE THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE I SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO ASSURE CABREAR MUNOZ LEDO THAT PLANS WILL GO FORWARD IMMEDIATELY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO INVITE THE MEXICAN BILATERAL COMMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE HERE IN 1973 TO WHICH WE ARE COMMITTED. JOVA

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